

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

## THE VENICE SUMMIT AND AIDS

6 May 1987

## SUMMARY

West European and Japanese concern about the spread of AIDS is rising sharply and acute public anxiety is reflected in daily media coverage. According to early 1987 World Health Organization (WHO) figures, some 4,000 Western Europeans are reported to be sick with AIDS, and--even more worrying--the number is doubling every 9 to 11 months. In West Germany and France, for example, there was a 150 percent jump in AIDS cases over the past year. According to the WHO, France has the most cases -- 1,253 -- while Switzerland and Denmark have the highest per capita rates.

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The EEC countries and Japan have responded to the AIDS epidemic with a variety of measures, including prevention education, increased funding for medical research, and mandatory blood testing for specific groups. These programs suggest the Summit countries would support increased international collaboration in (1) AIDS research programs developing vaccines and drugs; (2) exchange of preventive education information; and (3) communications about foreign

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aid programs directed against AIDS. [ ]

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Efforts to combat AIDS may increasingly create political dilemmas both in domestic and foreign policy. Proposals for mandatory testing of high-incidence groups and for registration of known AIDS carriers have been criticized by some West Germans on human rights grounds. The controversy will undoubtedly spread to other countries. Governmental promotion of condoms in Italy, Ireland, and Austria has drawn criticism from the Catholic Church and conservative groups, which argue that such programs implicitly endorse contraception. [ ]

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Anti-AIDS programs also may complicate West European relations with some countries outside of Europe. For example, AIDS is likely to become a major consideration in influencing West European policies on tourism, foreign labor, and immigration, and possibly on other issues. Belgium's mandatory testing of African students and withdrawal of scholarships from those who test positively have drawn charges of racism and discrimination from Zaire. [ ]

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Soviet disinformation that AIDS was developed in the United States has made little headway in Western Europe. Nonetheless, U.S. citizens -- particularly military personnel, but also tourists -- may become the focus of European scrutiny because the U.S. has the highest reported incidence of AIDS. [ ]

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### Japan

The Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare is devising measures to inform the public about AIDS and prevent its spread in Japan. The Ministry has introduced legislation that would require doctors to report all new AIDS carriers and is preparing guidelines for pregnant AIDS carriers on how to prevent transmission to the child. In addition, the legislation contains a proposal to test people entering the country for AIDS. Japanese concerns have also focused on limiting the spread of the disease by US servicemen stationed in Japan. Opponents of US bases in Japan may try to use the AIDS issue at the Venice Summit, but domestically Tokyo has been less aggressive in its campaign against AIDS than other countries, probably because AIDS has only recently arrived in Japan. The first reported case occurred in 1985, and thus far only 37 cases have been reported -- representing 0.3 cases per million people. The low rate may reflect the widespread

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use of prophylactics in Japan -- used by some 70 percent of couples for birth control. [REDACTED]

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FRG

The West German government has committed \$22 million to fund information campaigns and to establish 10 AIDS centers for victims of the disease. Another \$82 million has been earmarked for clinical researchers. The state government of Bavaria has adopted mandatory testing for high-risk groups, such as prostitutes and prison inmates, as well as foreigners applying for residence permits in Bavaria. The federal government has sharply criticized Bavaria's mandatory testing decision, arguing that the high-risk groups in question can be located more easily on a voluntary basis than by laws which drive them underground. The Kohl government, however, itself envisions strict penal sanctions for individuals who knowingly infect others. The FRG's 970 reported cases of the disease represent 16.1 cases per million. [REDACTED]

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France

The French government has launched a \$2-million prevention campaign and is increasing virus test funds from \$4 to \$5.7 million this year. Concern over AIDS prompted the government to repeal a 20-year-old law banning condom advertisements. Blood testing for AIDS has been limited to blood donors and hospital patients. The Minister of Health has proposed mandatory AIDS testing for all couples wishing to get married. French interest in combatting AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa can be seen in the French willingness to program \$3 million to fund an anti-AIDS campaign there and in French support for the US-chaired Cooperation for Development Health Technical Committee. French scientists working in Africa have begun testing vaccine compounds on humans. Franco-American cooperation in combating AIDS was symbolized in the bilateral resolution by President Reagan and Prime Minister Chirac of a longstanding battle over credit for discovering the virus. France's 1,253 cases, the most of any West European country, also represent the highest per capita incidence rate in Western Europe: 22.6 cases per million population. [REDACTED]

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UK

The British government will spend \$122 million in a three-year research campaign to seek a cure and a vaccine against AIDS. The government also began a \$40-million crash program in November to publicize the disease. It sent pamphlets to 23 million households, describing the AIDS virus and ways to avoid it, including the use of condoms. While most of the anti-AIDS budget is for a public campaign

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that uses the slogan, "Don't die of ignorance," the government is also preparing one million booklets for teachers and youth workers. Moreover, AIDS may soon go on a list of diseases used by port medical officers to restrict entry into Britain--a recent British poll shows that 82 percent of the public believe all visitors to Britain should be tested for entry. Officials have already agreed, however, that it would be enormously difficult to introduce compulsory health screening at all Britain's ports and airports. Americans--who represent the largest group of foreign visitors to the UK--would be most seriously affected if the government adopts such policies. The UK has been active in providing information to the European Community to encourage a common effort to combat AIDS. Britain's 731 reported AIDS cases represent 13 cases per million population.

### Italy

Italy has launched a \$35-million campaign that includes the establishing treatment centers in every region of the country and dispensing free condoms to the 270,000-member Italian army. There is a sharp difference in the spread of the disease between the countries of southern Europe, such as Italy and Spain, where more than half of those infected are drug users, and the northern parts of the continent of Europe, where homosexual men are a large majority of victims. In Italy there are far fewer open homosexual clubs and bars than in the United States and other European countries, and Italian homosexuals tend to have fewer partners than those elsewhere. Italy's 460 reported AIDS cases represent 8 cases per million population.

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### Canada

President Reagan and Prime Minister Mulroney agreed during their April meeting in Ottawa to collaborate in the AIDS battle and to raise the issue at the Venice Summit in June. Cooperation in vaccine development between the US and Canada has begun, using primate testing facilities in Ottawa. Canadians are hoping to take part in an international trial on a vaccine that has been already tested on animals in Ottawa. The Canadian government has pledged \$39 million over a five-year period: \$25 million for research and the remainder for training and public education. Three out of four anti-AIDS ads prepared for TV by the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) have been turned down by 20 private Canadian TV stations, but the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has accepted the CPHA ads and will run the 30-second commercials -- including those advocating condom use -- in evening prime time. Public health officials in Canada want to see the enactment of anti-discrimination laws to protect people with AIDS, believing that the absence of these laws is inadvertently contributing to the spread of AIDS. They find that people engaging in high-risk

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activities are not taking the AIDS antibody test because they fear the results will not remain confidential. The 944 reported AIDS cases in Canada represent 36 cases per million population, higher than the European tallies, but lower than the US figure, which is 136.2 per million.

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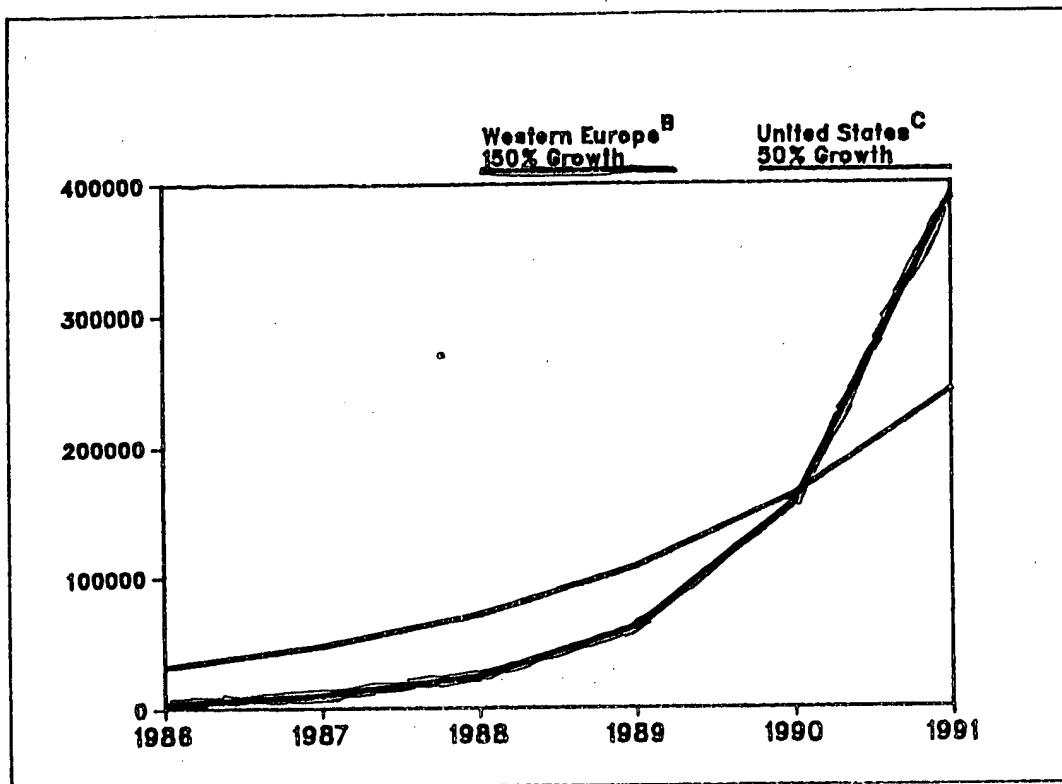
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AIDS Cases in Summit Countries

	<u>Total</u> <u>Cases Reported</u>	<u>Per Million People</u>
Japan	37	0.3
FRG	970	16.1
France	1,253	22.6
UK	731	13.0
Italy	460	8.0
Canada	944	36.0
US	32,825	136.2

Data as of 14 April 1987 from the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control. The numbers indicate those people who have symptoms of the disease, not merely carriers of the AIDS virus, whose numbers are estimated to be far higher.

## AIDS in Summit Countries: Projected Growth Rates<sup>A</sup>



<sup>A</sup> The number of reported AIDS cases is far lower than the actual number of cases, due to improper diagnoses and inadequate or nonexistent reporting procedures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there have been 100,000 cases of AIDS around the world to date, with 50 million to 100 million new carriers possible in the next five years. If these projections are correct, the organization predicts 15 million to 30 million new cases of AIDS worldwide by 1995. As of March 5, 1987, there were 42,120 cases from 91 countries.

The Centers for Disease Control will not project AIDS cases or deaths beyond 1991 because no one knows how many people have been exposed to the virus, or how many of the exposed will actually contract the disease. Moreover, the growth of prevention programs and ongoing research for cures, among other factors, could affect these projections.

<sup>B</sup> European projection based on WHO study.

<sup>C</sup> US projection based on Public Health Service Report